

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 15 of 1896.

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE
Week ending the 11th April 1896.

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URDU PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Banganivasi " ...	Calcutta	5,000	15th April, 1896.	
2	" Bangavasi " ...	Ditto	20,000	4th ditto.	
3	" Banijya Darpan " ...	Ditto	.....	3rd ditto.	
4	" Hitaishi " ...	Ditto	800	7th ditto.	
5	" Hitavadi " ...	Ditto	About 4,000	3rd ditto.	
6	" Kumari Patrika " ...	Ditto	.....	
7	" Mihir-o-Sudhakar " ...	Ditto	2,500	4th ditto.	
8	" Sahachar " ...	Ditto	About 500	1st ditto.	
9	" Samay " ...	Ditto	3,000	3rd ditto.	
10	" Sanjivani " ...	Ditto	3,000	4th ditto.	
11	" Som Prakash " ...	Ditto	800	7th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Banga Vidya Prakashika " ...	Ditto	350		
2	" Dainik-o-Samachar Chandra " ...	Ditto	1,000	1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th and 8th April, 1896.	
3	" Samvad Prabhakar " ...	Ditto	1,250	6th and 8th April 1896.	
4	" Samvad Purnachandrodaya " ...	Ditto	200		
5	" Sulabh Dainik " ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th April 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bharat Mitra " ...	Ditto	2,000		
2	" Hindi Bangavasi " ...	Ditto	10,000	6th April 1896.	
3	" Uchit Vakta " ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Dainik Bharat Mitra " ...	Ditto	5,000	31st March, 1896.	
PESSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hubbul Mateen " ...	Calcutta	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide " ...	Ditto	310	2nd April, 1896.	
2	" General and Gauhariasfi " ...	Ditto	330	31st March, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Bankura Darpan " ...	Bankura	450	1st April, 1896.	
2	" Ulubaria Darpan " ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Burdwan Sanjivani " ...	Burdwan	About 250	31st March, 1896.	
2	" Chinsura Vartavaha " ...	Chinsura	550	8th April, 1896.	
3	" Darsak " ...	Ditto	.....	
4	" Education Gazette " ...	Hooghly	1,145	3rd ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.				
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ..	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	1st April, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	3rd ditto.	
URIA.					
ORISSA DIVISION.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Shikhabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480		
HINDI.					
PATNA DIVISION.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500	22nd March, 1896.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	28th ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	30th March, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	1st April, 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	500	April, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
DACCA DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	31st March, 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	5th April, 1896.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	4th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	27th March 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
3	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	2nd fortnight Falgoon, 1302 B. S.	
ASSAM.					

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 6th April says that idle threats, such as those which England is now using against Turkey, England and the Porte. are a sign of weakness. England's threatening language has made no impression either on Turkey or on Russia.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 6th, 1896.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 31st March complains of Thefts in the Mymensingh district. the prevalence of theft at Narandia, Daulatpur and Nagarbari, within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 31st, 1896.

3. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Maheswar Khila says that creatures of the police are generally appointed collecting panchayats in that part of the country. The poor cultivators of that part cannot afford to buy bullocks, and they therefore employ cows in ploughing their fields. But these collecting panchayats have now spread a rumour that Government has prohibited this practice, and by so doing are gaining their own selfish ends.

CHARU MIHIR.

4. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st April says that the result of the investigation in the Manullabazar *hajut* case in the Murshidabad district has failed to give satisfaction to the public. The Civil Surgeon's testimony was

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 1st, 1896.

that death had been caused by suffocation, but he did not say whether suffocation was caused by the deceased himself or by somebody else. The position in which the body was found in *hajut* was, however, distinctly unfavourable to the theory of suicide. Besides, why did the police arrest a man and throw him into *hajut* merely on suspicion? Under what section of the Penal Code did they do so? It is said that when the unfortunate man was arrested in a *brothel* there was also a police officer there who was enjoying himself. The police, moreover, made a false entry of the time of arrest in the diary. The man had been arrested long before the hour mentioned in the diary, and had been taken to Azimganj and several other places before he was thrown into *hajut*. Evidence of this is forthcoming. Some people have also informed the writer that people living near the police-station heard groans issuing from the room in which the dead body was found. In view of the above suspicious circumstances, it is necessary that the case should be put in the hands of a skilled detective officer from Calcutta for a full investigation.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 1st, 1896.

5. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st April gives the two following cases:—(1) One Kali Muchi, an inhabitant of village Jagadalla, near Bankura town, has been sent up as a cooly to Cachar, and it is pitiable to see his old blind father and his mother crying for their lost son. Sridhar, Paran and Baikuntha Muchi of the place say that, on the 10th March last, Kali was sitting in the house of his relative Mahendra, when Akshay Muchi, an *arkati*, asked him to come with him to the bazar. Kali, Akshay Muchi and one Akshay Bauri, another *arkati*, went together in the direction of the bazar, and Kali has not been since heard of. Neither were Akshay Muchi and Akshay Bauri met with for some days after Kali's disappearance. They have, however, come back. The above witnesses also say that, on enquiry, they have learnt that Kali was lodged in Ganganarayan Babu's cooly dépôt at Raniganj by Akshay Muchi and Ramyad Pande. According to Baikuntha, one Neyari, an *arkati* in the service of Sukhar Singh, saw Kali forcibly put into a railway train at Raniganj. This is only one side of the story, and it is hoped that the authorities will enquire how far it is correct. (2) One Govinda Datta of Bankura town came to this office one day and said that his brother, Sitanath, who had disappeared, was reported to have been sent up to Cachar. The unfortunate man had left at home a young wife and an aged, disconsolate father. The authorities are requested to enquire into this case.

BANGANIVASI,
April 5th, 1896.

6. A correspondent of the *Banganivasi* of the 5th April complains that the hackney-carriage drivers, who carry passengers from the Dhakuria Station on the Diamond Harbour railway to Kalighat, pack their carriages with twelve passengers or more, in direct contravention of the Municipal regulation that they should not carry more than four passengers. This sometimes leads to serious accidents. The Dhakuria police seem to be in league with these drivers, and they do not prosecute them.

HITAISHI,
April 7th, 1896.

7. The *Hitaishi* of the 7th April learns from the *Dacca Prakash* that during the last Astamisnan festival, when a young woman of seventeen or eighteen was passing, with four female and three male companions, through a village called Betkachangari in Vikrampur, in the Dacca district, she was set upon by a number of *badmashes*, who overpowered her male companions, carried her away and set her free after outraging her chastity. The *badmashes* were all recognised by the villagers, but the injured woman and her friends did not like to prosecute them and make their own shame public. What does this mean? Are the people living in anarchy? *Badmashi* has become the order of the day in East Bengal. Why does the Government remain indifferent? Why does it not take vigorous measures to bring the offenders to justice, and punish them condignly? Why do women go on pilgrimage when they know that their honour is not safe if they stir out of their homes?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 8th, 1896.

8. A correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 8th April writes as follows:—

A charge against the Burdwan Police.

Some time ago a case was instituted in Burdwan. A police enquiry was ordered, but the police reported it to be a false case. The complainant then submitted a petition to the Magistrate, protesting that his case was not false, and citing one Debidin as a witness. In the course of his deposition, Debidin said that Babu Sasibhushan Chaudhuri, Daroga of the Burdwan town thana, used to visit a prostitute named Kumud, a lodger in the brothel owned by Sadu, another prostitute, and had some interest in reporting the case as false. Upon this deposition and the complainant's statement, charges have been framed against the four accused.

On the 24th March last, about a month after he had given his deposition, Debidin made the following complaint before the Burdwan Criminal Court:—

"On the evening of the 22nd March I was standing in front of the *Mangala Thakurbari*, in company with some priests of that temple, when a constable was seen taking a man to the thana, with considerable ill-treatment, for having made water on the bank of the Banka. The priests interposed and asked the constable to release the man with a warning this time, as he was evidently a new-comer to town, and did not know its laws. The constable refusing to comply with their request, I told the priests that it was idle to request the constable to release the man, but that they might, if they were so disposed, go to Court and prove the man's ill-treatment by the constable. The constable went away to the thana with the arrested person. But soon afterwards, Mewa Chaube, Trilok, Siomangal Singh, the Jamadar of the outpost, and another constable, formed an unlawful assembly before the *Mangala* temple, abused me for having given evidence against the daroga, and then dragged me to the thana with much ill-usage. The road by which I was taken to the thana lay by the house of Babu Haris Chandra Banerji, Deputy Magistrate, and he saw the occurrence. He remonstrated with the constables for beating me, but his remonstrances were not heeded, and I was taken to the thana. The Deputy Magistrate, however, kindly sent a man to the thana and had me released. The Inspector, on being written to, came to investigate the matter at 10 P.M., but did not think it necessary to take my deposition, or to send me to the Civil Surgeon for examination."

On receiving this complaint, Mr. Windsor ordered Babu R. N. Ghosh to take down the complainant's statement, and to send him to the Civil Surgeon for examination. He also ordered the case to be put up with the final report in the case under section 353, Indian Penal Code, instituted by the police against Debidin for having snatched away a criminal from police custody.

On the 1st April the police brought up one Basu Hari, as the criminal, under the Municipal Act, whom Debidin had snatched away. At the time of the trial, however, the accused said that he was never guilty of an offence under Act V, but that the police promised him a reward of ten rupees if he passed himself off as the criminal whom Debidin had unlawfully released from police custody. The Magistrate, Mr. Fisher, disbelieved the story of the police, and discharged the man.

The Editor requests the District Magistrate of Burdwan and the Inspector-General of Police to keep their eye on Debidin's case, as the charges against the police appear to be very serious.

(1)—*Working of the Courts.*

9. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st March has a paragraph praising Mr. Windsor, District Magistrate of Burdwan, on

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 31st, 1896.

Mr. Windsor, District Magistrate of Burdwan. the eve of his transfer from that district. Mr. Windsor is a young man, but an able officer. He

is impartial and painstaking as a judge, and has earned a well-deserved reputation for his just administration of the law. As an executive officer he is inferior in no respect to old and experienced Magistrates. He possesses all the qualifications of a District Magistrate, and the Burdwan people are very sorry to part with him. Not that Mr. Windsor has no faults. He is a human being, and is not free from human weaknesses. But his good qualities preponderate over the bad. He commits mistakes—and grave mistakes too—now and then, but he is open to correction. He is never in the habit of persisting in wrongdoing. Mr. Windsor is sure to become a model Magistrate in course of time, when his experience will grow with his years, and a mature judgment will correct the errors of youth.

10. A correspondent of the *Darussultanat and Urdu Guide* of the 2nd

April, who is an eye-witness of the Giridi cow-snatching case. April, who is an eye-witness of the Giridi cow-snatching affair, says that the offenders maltreated the female members of the house whence they carried off the cow, and solicits strict justice at the hands of the Subdivisional Officer.

DARUSSULTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
April 2nd, 1896.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd April says:—

HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1896.

The Madaripur enquiry. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division has not yet gone to Madaripur to make an enquiry into the charges published against Maulvi Fazlul Karim. A correspondent writes to us from Dacca that the Commissioner has changed his views on the subject. The Commissioner himself has not, however, told us anything about this. In the meantime the Maulvi has been transferred to the sadar station—a transfer which we cannot consider wholly satisfactory, seeing that he still remains under the same Commissioner. We know many other serious things against the Maulvi, besides those we have already published, and if the authorities do not attend to our charges against the Maulvi we shall feel obliged to make further disclosures.

Here we will publish only one other charge against the Maulvi. A trustworthy correspondent informs us that the reason why a prisoner fled from the Maulvi's house was, that he had been beaten for refusing to clear a spot fouled by a baby.

12. A correspondent writes to the same paper from Jalpaiguri:—

HITAVADI.

Cases under the Arms Act in Jalpaiguri. It is no wonder that those persons in Alipore, who applied for licenses for arms in the middle of January, should have been fined. Here in Jalpaiguri, those men who applied for licenses in the latter end of December, that is to say, when their old licenses were still in force, have been prosecuted under the Arms Act, and fined from 4 annas to 1 rupee. Was it any fault of the licensees that they could not get their licenses renewed in proper time, owing to the elaborate procedure of the court or the negligence of the amla?

13. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th April says that

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 4th, 1896.

The present Subdivisional Officer of Penny in the Chittagong District. while the Muhammadan residents of the Fenny subdivision in the Chittagong district have been rejoicing at the prospect of having a Musalman Subdivisional Officer in the person of Maulvi Abbas Ali, M.A., the Hindu residents

of the place, and the present Subdivisional Officer himself, have moved the Commissioner to keep in abeyance for some time the orders transferring the present Subdivisional Officer. It is hoped that Government will not listen to these representations, considering that the present Subdivisional Officer's home is not very distant from the sub-division, and that his stay at Fenny consequently enables him to carry on talukdari, zemindari, and mahajani business on his own account, a thing which no Government officer should do. His hatred of the Musalmans, who form two-thirds of the population of the subdivision, was clearly displayed in the case which he caused to be instituted against Sekh Ahmad Chaudhuri Saheb, a zamindar, who refused to meet the Subdivisional Officer's demand of Rs. 200 as subscription towards the expenses of a Kali Puja. The zamindar was charged with causing a breach of the public peace. The case was, on the accused's application, transferred to the file of the District Magistrate, and is being investigated by that officer.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 6th, 1896.

14. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 6th April complains that the Honorary Magistrates of Ranaghat are never punctual in their attendance. They generally keep litigants waiting for a long time, thereby causing

them great hardship and inconvenience. The authorities should take notice of this and redress the grievance of the public.

HITAISHI,
April 7th, 1896.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitaishi* of the 7th April writes as follows about certain irregularities in the Ranaghat Mun-

Certain irregularities in the law courts and their remedy.

There is a rule requiring the orders of a law court on every plaint, as well as on every application for the execution of a decree or other matter to be communicated to the parties concerned or their pleaders, and also requiring their signature in acknowledgment of such communication to be obtained on the space provided for the purpose on the order-sheet. If this rule is generally observed in regard to the dates which are fixed for the hearing of cases, it is as generally disregarded in regard to orders on applications for execution of decrees, for grant of sale certificates and for return of documents. There being no rule requiring that sale certificates are to be granted and documents are to be returned within a specified period from the date of application, applicants are put to a good deal of trouble on this account. It is difficult to procure a sale certificate or to get back documents in due time without incurring additional expenditure. It is very important for an auction purchaser to obtain a certificate of sale early, in order to prevent the judgment-debtor from using the property to his prejudice. There are reasons to fear that these irregularities exist in all courts. The inconvenience arising from these irregularities may be put a stop to by fixing the number of days within which sale certificates are to be granted and documents are to be returned.

(d) — Education.

SAHACHAR,
April 1st, 1896.

16. The *Sahachar* of the 1st April sees nothing extravagant in the demand of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association that a separate college for Eurasians. the Doveton College should be raised to the rank of a first class aided College. The Doveton College is the only institution in Calcutta for the higher education of Eurasian youths, whose number is daily increasing. There are separate Government schools for the education of Hindu and Muhammadan boys and youths, and why should Government grudge the expense of maintaining a separate institution for the Eurasians, who form one of the three principal communities of Calcutta?

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's recent address at the above Association should not, however, be taken to mean that His Honour is an enemy of high education. His address at the City College precludes any assumption or inference like that.

HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1896.

17. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd April learns from a correspondent that the Berhampore District Board has appointed a Musalman graduate to a vacant Sub-Inspectorship of Schools under it, in disregard of the claims of a Hindu graduate, Babu Charuchandra Banerjee, who had discharged the duties of that post for more than a year as a temporary man, and who had, on previous occasions, officiated several times for the local Deputy Inspector of Schools.

Appointment of a Musalman Sub-Inspector of Schools by the Berhampore District Board.

Babu Charuchandra had also satisfied all superior officers but one by his work. The writer does not object to this arrangement from race-feeling. He would have protested quite as vigorously if the just claims of a Musalman had been overlooked in this way in favour of a Hindu. The correspondent says that the Magistrate was sorry to disappoint Charu Babu in this way; but he had to obey a Government Circular which lays down that a competent Musalman candidate, where available, shall have preference. The writer cannot understand on what principle of justice Government has issued such a Circular.

18. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 4th April does not support the proposals which were made through the instrumentality of the *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* at a recent meeting of the Faculty of Arts of the Calcutta University.

Bengali in the Calcutta University. In the first place the writer does not consider it at all advisable to add to the burden of text-books or subjects placed on the shoulders of the candidates for the University Examinations, by introducing Bengali as an independent subject of study into the curriculum of the Calcutta University. In the next place it is as much objectionable to make Bengali an alternative subject of study with Sanskrit as it would be to replace the study of Sanskrit with that of Bengali. If Bengali be made an optional subject of study, the study of Sanskrit will be neglected, as most of the candidates will take up Bengali and give up the pursuit of Sanskrit, which is a far more difficult language. This, however, is undesirable even in the interest of the Bengali language. Let Bengali be given a place in the curriculum of the Calcutta University; but let not Sanskrit be pulled down from its eminent position, let not Sanskrit be injured in any way. The writer is not sorry that the proposal of making Bengali one of the second languages for the F.A. and B.A. Examinations fell through for want of a seconder.

As regards the proposal to teach Mathematics, History and Geography in Bengali in the Entrance class, the writer has no doubt that the proposed change will be calculated to improve the Bengali language, but there is a serious objection to it. The candidates for University Examinations must acquire a proficiency in the English language; for such proficiency is required for the gaining of a livelihood in these days. But students will not be able to acquire this proficiency if they are taught Mathematics, History and Geography in Bengali.

As regards the proposal to examine F.A. and B.A. candidates in Bengali composition and translation, which was passed at that meeting of the Faculty of Arts, the writer does not expect any very substantial good to come out of it.

19. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 4th April complains that the Hindu members of the School Committee of the Shahzadpur Entrance School have made up their mind to appoint a Hindu to the post of third master, in spite of the superior claims of a Musalman candidate, who prosecuted his studies with credit up to the 3rd year class in the Presidency College, and who also acted several times as the second or the third master in this school. The Hindu candidate has just passed the F. A. Examination and has no educational experience. The superiority of his claim evidently consists in his being a Hindu!

An appointment in the Shahzadpur school in the Pabna district.

SARASWAT PATRA,
April 4th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
April 4th, 1896.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

20. The *Charu Mihir* of the 31st March writes as follows:—

The Mymensingh District Board and water-supply.

We are receiving numerous complaints of scarcity of water from the mufassal. The Mymensingh District Board has had the question of water scarcity under its consideration for the last three years. But nothing practical has yet been done. The poor raiyats, who pay the road-cess, are crying in vain for water in this terrible heat of Chaitra. The members of the District Board are inert, heartless creatures, or they would have done something by this time to relieve this scarcity. The Chairmen of the Local Boards are mere cyphers, who are unable to spend for relief of water scarcity any money which they may get for the purpose.

For five years in succession Sir Charles Elliott drew the attention of the District Boards to the necessity of maintaining a tank for the supply of drinking water in every village. The new Lieutenant-Governor also has tried

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 31st, 1896.

to awake the District Boards to a sense of their duty in this connection. It is a pity that the Mymensingh District Board which has an annual income of not less than two lakhs and 75 thousand rupees, should spend no more than 3 thousand rupees a year on water-supply. The Duke of Argyll gave a distinct pledge that the proceeds of the road-cess would be applied to water-supply. But, for all that, the proceeds of that cess are being applied to many other purposes besides. Mr. Harris, Chairman of the District Board, is requested to enquire how much that Board has spent during the last 10 years on water-supply. The Board's contribution of Rs. 30,000 towards the construction of water-works should not be taken into account, as water-supply in that particular form did not enter into the scheme of the road-cess.

CHARU MIRI,
Mar. 31st, 1896.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 31st, 1896.

21. The same paper publishes three letters complaining of water scarcity at Narandia and the adjoining villages, at Malati subdivision of the Mymensingh and at Palisa, within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, as well as of the indifference of the District Board to the sufferings of the poor villagers.

22. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st March has the following:—

Water scarcity in the mufassal. It is as much a duty of the Government to promote the health of the people under its care as it is to protect them and maintain peace and security in the country. Pure water is the *sine qua non* of health. Not to speak of pure water, there is a fearful scarcity of water just now in Bengal. The Government has prescribed official tours simply with this object in view, that the touring officers will examine and inquire into the crying wants and grievances of the people, and devise means for their removal. The executive officers no doubt become acquainted with the wants and grievances of the people in the course of their tours, and nothing could be more desirable than that they should try their best to remove them, or bring them to the notice of the Government, with a view to bring about their removal. The tanks in the mufassal are all silted or dried up. If the Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates out touring induce their owners to repair or re-excavate them and grant them loans where necessary for this purpose from the District Board funds, the prevailing scarcity of water in the mufassal may, in a large measure, be allayed. In the Burdwan district the Magistrate can do a great deal in this direction if he has the water of the Eden Canal conveyed through channels cut for this purpose to villages which suffer from an acute scarcity of water during the summer. And in places which are at a great distance from the Eden Canal, he may have tanks and wells dug. The expense may be met, partly by the Government, partly by the District Board and partly by public subscriptions raised for the purpose. The Maharani of Burdwan may have one tank dug every year at her expense in the district, and the zamindars and the rich men of the district may be induced to follow her example.

SAHACHAR,
April 1st, 1896.

23. The *Sahachar* of the 1st April has the following in an article headed Water scarcity in the mufassal. "Sir Alexander, once turn your eyes towards the mufassal."

Sir Alexander, you are a kind and experienced man. You are intimately acquainted with Bengal, with its good, as well as its bad, features. We entreat you with joined hands to once cast your eyes on the condition of the mufassal at this time. You will, after one or two months, be out on a tour through the mufassal. But listen to the outcries of the people, and do you now once, at least for ten or fifteen days, pay a visit to the interior of the country, and you will then see what ruin threatens the land. There was no good rain last year and the year before the last. So far back as Aswin last (September—October) we predicted that in the mufassal the state of things in the following Chaitra and Baisakh would be really fearful. Our apprehensions are now realised. You are the protector of Bengal. Once see with your own eyes to what a miserable plight the people have been brought. Your heart will break to see it, and you will feel forced to lay aside all other public duties and make your utmost endeavour to provide the country with drinking water. If you do not do this hundreds of thousands of the mufassal people will suffer insatiable thirst, and die of cholera. All this will come about within the next two months; and so, if you visit the mufassal after that time, the only thing that will greet your eyes will be desolate villages, and the only sound that will greet your

ears will be the mournful cries of a few unfortunate survivors. If moved by pity, and foregoing your own ease and comfort, you once see the condition of the people at this time, you will surely be able to devise measures for keeping them alive. There is in Bengal no one but yourself who can do this. Lord of Bengal, it is for this reason that, in the name of the Queen-Empress, we again beseech you with joined hands to once attend to the condition of the mufassal at this time. You will see that there is water nowhere in the country, that even people who live near rivers and other large reservoirs of water are finding a difficulty in the matter of water-supply. It must be very difficult for those whose homes are within a couple of miles from a river to get their drinking water from it, still they are doing this with much labour and trouble. It is, however, the people who live still further from rivers and tanks that are literally threatened with ruin. In the mufassal every village has not got a tank. It is not rare to find half-a-dozen villages drawing their water from a single tank in one among them, which is resorted to by people within four to six miles around. But this cannot be very long. This tank, again, has very probably either completely dried up, or contains only a little muddy water, which is extremely offensive. But the villagers have no choice, they cannot but drink this water, and fall victims to cholera. This is the state of things all over the mufassal. A tract of country on the other side of the Damodar in the Hooghly district is in a fearful condition. Cholera is decimating the population there. Cremation of corpses is no longer found possible, and so helpless have the inhabitants become that there is no one to tend or nurse the sick and the dying. Lord of Bengal, the sight will startle and stupify you, and your heart will break to see it!

Sir Charles Elliott seemed wilfully blind to the fact that want of good drinking water is mainly responsible for the frequent outbreaks of cholera and malarious fever in this country, and he would have entitled himself to the lasting reverence of the people, if he had endeavoured to supply the want. But instead of doing that, he wanted to give the country the benefit of an improved drainage. But Sir Alexander, we thank you heartily for your finding out the true remedy. Sir Antony MacDonnell too was able to do this. In your Howrah speech you observed that drinking water was a more urgent necessity than drainage. You have understood the real condition of the country, and our prayer is that you may see the condition of the people with your own eyes, and do the needful. We ask that you should grant loans to the District Boards without interest, and that they should forthwith apply the money to the excavation of wells and the reclamation of the silted tanks all over the country. This will save the people. There should be no delay in doing it. The work should be begun at once. The loans should be made repayable gradually and in instalments. If this is done, you will entitle yourself to the heart's gratitude of the people of Bengal. If this is not done, the greater part of Bengal will soon be converted into a waste and wilderness.

24. A correspondent of the *Pratikar* of the 3rd April complains that there is a scarcity of water in Arjunpur and about thirty or forty adjoining villages in the Murshidabad district. There is not a single large tank or well in any of these villages. Some of the well-to-do have wells in their houses, but their water is not even sufficient for their own consumption, and they do not allow others to draw water from them. There is a small branch of the Bhagirathi at a distance of a mile, the water of which is being used by the people of all the villages for all purposes, and which has consequently become polluted. The Local Board should dig a few wells in these villages. Maharani Sarnamayi will entitle herself to the gratitude of the people by digging a large well.

25. The *Education Gazette* of the 3rd April has the following:—

Water scarcity in Bengal—how it can be removed. Throughout Bengal this year people are suffering from an acute water scarcity brought about by failure of rains. There are large old tanks still in existence almost in every village, but they contain very little water, as they have not been re-excavated since they were dug long ago. The little water they contain has become muddy, while wells and other small reservoirs of water have been completely dried up. The consequence is that in places where there are no rivers, canals, large tanks or deep wells, the sufferings of the people are

PRATIKAR,
April 3rd, 1896.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.
April 3rd, 1896.

great. An epidemic of cholera has broken out and is carrying away hundreds of victims. It is the duty of the District Boards to spend an adequate portion of their revenue on the improvement of water-supply in the mufassal. But they never conscientiously discharge this duty. It is true that they, every year, set apart a small portion of their revenue for the improvement of water-supply, but this grant is extremely inadequate for the purpose, and what is more to be regretted, even this grant, small as it is, is not wholly or properly spent. So great is the indifference of the District Boards in this matter that the Government has of late had to issue a Circular calling upon them to spend at least five thousand rupees a year on the improvement of water-supply.

In some districts the Boards undertake to repair or re-excavate old tanks at their own cost, on the condition that the proprietary right in such tanks should belong to them. The expediency of such a practice is doubtful, as owners of tanks are not always willing to part with their proprietary right, and they have good reasons on their side. A man dug a tank at the cost of two thousand rupees. The tank silts up in course of time, and the owner not being in a position to re-excavate it, hands it over to the District Board, which repairs it at a cost of three hundred rupees. In the course of ten years the tank silts up again, water scarcity in the village is not removed and the only consequence of the whole transaction is that the owner of the tank loses a valuable property. The District Board never enters into contracts to keep tanks in good order, and pay compensation to their owners, if it fails to do so. It is no wonder, therefore, that owners of silted-up tanks do not agree to hand them over to the District Boards. There are some District Boards who undertake to re-excavate tanks at their own cost, on the condition that the owners must not allow the water to be polluted and must allow the public to have free access to it, that the proprietary right in the water will belong to the Boards, while the right of fishing and of using the sides of the tanks will belong exclusively to their owners. This practice is productive of better results, provided the money is judiciously spent, so that the owners of silted-up tanks are not exclusively benefited by their re-excavation at the cost of the public. All District Boards ought to adopt this practice, and repair and re-excavate old silted-up tanks in densely populated places.

Every District Board should also take the present opportunity to draw up a list of the places in which scarcity of water is most keenly felt by men and animals alike, and which are generally most affected by cholera. The list will serve the Board as a useful standard of reference and will enable it to properly and judiciously spend its money in repairing or re-excavating old and silted-up tanks. Every District Board should, this year, fix the sites of three or four hundred tanks in the district, and make a classification of them into (1) tanks that are most urgently needed, and (2) that are less urgently needed. No District Board should undergo the expense of digging a new tank. There is not a place in which there is not even a small silted-up pond. And the money of the District Board will be very well spent if it re-excavates this pond, and thereby not only supplies the public with a reservoir of pure water, but removes a hot-bed of poison and pollution. The expense also will, in this case, be comparatively small.

The District Boards should, first of all, take up the re-excavation of large silted-up tanks. And this can be best done by granting aid to the village people for this purpose—the grant-in-aid being, according to circumstances, double, treble, equal to or half the amount of subscriptions raised, or any other fraction thereof. The District Boards grant aid to schools, but never demand a return from those who are taught there. They establish charitable dispensaries and hospitals, but never claim a lien upon the labour or earnings of the patients who are treated there. Why should they then be so anxious to establish a claim to the tanks which they repair at their cost for the benefit of the public? It is desirable that the water of these tanks should not be allowed to be polluted. But no harassingly rigorous rules need be laid down. Bathing in such tanks need not always be prohibited. Bathing may deposit impurities in the water, but such impurities are destroyed by the fish, and pollution of the water is in this way prevented. Had this not been the case, Bengal would have been by this time depopulated. We do not say that the District Boards should allow the public to bathe or wash their clothes in all the tanks. What we

want is that people should not be persecuted in the name of sanitation; that the village women should not be prosecuted for drawing water with their legs knee-deep in the water. Fear of police persecution and harassment often makes people hesitate to hand over their proprietary right in their tanks to the District Boards. Municipal administration in this country is not, and will take a long time to be, as perfect as in England. Still we have municipalities. There is no regular system for the inspection of our food. Our police is yet far from being placed on a reformed basis. With all these drawbacks, it will be going too far to have fastidious and hard-and-fast rules about the prevention of the pollution of water. Will not the people be given water to drink, simply because the District Boards cannot enforce fastidious rules about the purification of water? Will not they be allowed to bathe in the tanks in this hot season? Will not cattle, too, have sufficient water to drink? "Give up your proprietary right in your tanks or drink muddy water and die"—do not the District Boards feel ashamed to say this? Are the District Boards prepared to let the people die, simply because they may not always derive a profit from the investment of their money in the repair or re-excavation of silted up tanks? It will be as reasonable to let people die of thirst, because owners of tanks do not give up their proprietary right, as it will be to let people die of hunger during famine, because zamindars may not give up land to be used for the purpose of famine relief work. We beseech the District Boards to give up their narrow-mindedness, and at once spend as largely as they can on the improvement of water-supply. Making of roads may wait for a year or two.

When will the rich and the well-to-do in this country again realise the greatness of the duty of digging tanks and wells for the use of their less fortunate countrymen? Palatial houses, gaudy vestments, carriages and horses do not last long. Houses crumble to dust, and large estates are not unfrequently brought under the hammer. But the large old tanks in the country still bear witness to the liberality of those who dug them and serve to perpetuate their names. Calcutta millionaires, village zamindars, rich pleaders, contractors and traders do you all try, for one moment, to realize the sufferings of your countrymen in the mafassal from scarcity of water. Dig tanks and wells in your native villages, so far as it lies within your means, and water scarcity in the mafassal will be removed in no time. This year is particularly favourable for the digging of deep tanks and wells. Dig tanks and wells, then, this very year, and do not procrastinate. Let the British Indian Association start a water fund without further delay. Let the pleaders and zamindars in every district open one such fund, and let every man of means liberally contribute to it. Let every one contribute his mite. In this way lakhs of rupees may be gathered. There are rich men in this country, every one of whom has the means to place such a fund in a district on a secure footing. Our millionaire should remember that, like a man's children, his society has a claim upon his wealth. Society must always be given a fair share of a man's income. In the discharge of this duty to the country there can be no distinction of creed or colour. Hindus, Musalmans and Brahmos are all equally interested in the improvement of water-supply. It is obligatory on every one of them to discharge his debt of obligation to his society and to his countrymen. The Hindu is proverbially kind-hearted, and he cannot remain unmoved if he is once brought to realize the sufferings of his countrymen in the mafassal from scarcity of water. Let every Hindu, then, be appealed to through his heart. Let a movement be set on foot to raise subscriptions for the purpose of improving water-supply in the mafassal, and let the principal men in every district take the lead in this humane, in this godly, movement. Let not our countrymen sleep at this moment of crisis, when every nerve should be stretched to relieve the distress of millions of men.

26. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 4th April says that the Narayanganj

Local Self-Government in Narayanganj in the Dacca district.

Police reported that Babu Sarat Chundra Gupta, Chairman of the Narayanganj Local Board, had not made good arrangements in view of the last

Ashtumi Snan pilgrimage. Mr. Shirres, the District Magistrate of Dacca and Chairman of the Local District Board, has accordingly got a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Board, declaring Babu Sarat Chundra unfit for the

SARASWAT PATRA,
April 4th, 1896.

Chairmanship of the Local Board, and providing for the election of the Subdivi-
sional Officer in his place. According to the Local Self-Government Act, however,
a member of a Local Board can alone be its Chairman. The District Board's
Resolution, therefore, clearly goes against the provisions of the Local Self-
Government Act. This is at least the impression of the public. Will the
Government take the Resolution for a precedent, or will it amend the law with
a view to give it legal sanction ?

BANGAVASI,
April 4th, 1896.

27. Correspondents of the *Bangavasi* of the 4th April complain of scarcity
of water in different parts of Bengal. In Chandra-
hati-Pandua, in the Hooghly district, there is no

large tank, and the small tanks and ponds are all dried up. In Rudramanta, in
the same district, scarcity of water is very great. A fire broke out in the
village which could not be extinguished for want of water. In Masna-
Kisoreganj, in the Mymensingh district, all the tanks and wells have silted up,
and the Government tank, too, is dry. If the Government repairs the Yogi's
tank in the village it will save five hundred people from water famine. Tanks
have nearly dried up in Changacha-Manpur, in the Nadia district, and the
water in them is muddy and polluted. The use of this poisonous water is the
cause of the breaking out of the cholera epidemic in this and the neighbouring
villages. The same is the case in Kamarhati in the Burdwan district, and in
Baneswarpur in the Hooghly district. In Baneswarpur there are large tanks, but
they are all dried up, and their owners have not the means to re-excavate them.

28. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th April has the following :—

SANJIVANI,
April 4th, 1896.

Water scarcity.

Most parts of lower Bengal are suffering from
an acute water scarcity. The rainfall this year

was highly unsatisfactory. Tanks and wells have all dried up, and the little
water that is still available is so muddy and polluted, that drinking it is like
drinking poison. In former times it was looked upon as an act of great reli-
gious merit to dig wells and tanks, but English civilization has dispelled that
belief from the mind of educated Bengal. The landed class has become im-
poverished, and most people have not the means to dig tanks and wells, or
re-excavate those which already exist. The Government has imposed the road-
cess and many other cesses. Roads are being constructed. The water-supply
in towns is being improved. But the Government and the District Boards
are totally indifferent about the water-supply in the mufassal. Sir Charles
Elliott passed the Drainage Act, but his attention was not drawn to the people's
suffering from scarcity of water. Let Sir Alexander Mackenzie come to the
rescue of the suffering millions of Bengal. Let the Government encourage
the wealthy gentry and aristocracy to dig tanks and wells in their villages by
conferring titles on those who set a good example in this direction. Let the
Government also make the District Boards spend an adequate portion of the
road and public works cesses on the improvement of water-supply.

Complaints of scarcity of water reach us from all parts of the country.
A correspondent writes from Harinakundu in the Jessore district that the
sufferings of the villagers from scarcity of water are simply indescribable. A
local gentleman excavated a large tank at the cost of about Rs. 6,000. The
people of about seven or eight villages are using its water, and this heavy drain
has almost exhausted its contents. The Jhenidah Local Board has promised
to grant to the people a loan of Re. 1-8 for each well-tank. Re. 1-8 for a well
is totally inadequate for the purpose, and none have, therefore, applied for
the loan. The want of pure water, and the consequent use of polluted water,
have brought on cholera in the mufassal, which is carrying away hundreds of
victims. Cholera of an acute type has broken out in Harinakundu, in
Kaigram in the Burdwan district, and in Naldhu in the Jessore district.

SANJIVANI.

Pound oppression in Harinakundu, Jessore.

SANJIVANI.

An appointment in the Charitable dispensary in Shahzadpur,
Pabna.

29. A correspondent of the same paper complains of pound oppression
in Harinakundu in the Jessore district. The
cattle impounded are not properly fed, and the
pound-keeper exacts excess fees. He does not

also give receipts for fees paid.

30. A correspondent of the same paper complains that, of two candidates,
one a Hindu and another a Musalman, for the post
of a medical practitioner for the local dispensary,
the Hindu has been selected in spite of the superior

claims of the Musselman. The Musselman is a medical practitioner of some standing, at present drawing a pay of one hundred rupees. He has been praised by four Civil Surgeons and he holds good certificates. Still his claims have been ignored, because he is a Musselman, while the rival candidate is a Hindu, and is related to an influential gentlemen of the locality.

31. At the last meeting of the Dacca District Board, says the *Dacca Prakash* of the 5th April, a Resolution was carried

Chairmanship of the Dacca Local Boards. by Mr. Shirres, the Magistrate-Chairman, by his casting vote, laying down the rule that none but

Subdivisional Officers should, in future, be appointed Chairmen of the Local Boards in the district. Though the Resolution was supported only by the Chairman, and those nominated members who curry favour with him, the fact that it has been carried is a disgrace to the District Board. It is certain that it would not have been carried if the Magistrate had not been at the head of the Board. It is useless to keep up the show of Local Self-Government, if it is the intention of Government that in District and Local Boards the Magistrates should have their way in every matter. Magisterial control over the Boards is required for preventing indiscreet members from doing things which may injure the public. But means for the exercise of such control have been amply provided for in sections 120 to 129 of the Local Self-Government Act. Those sections empower the Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner, and in the last place, the Government, to interfere with the proceedings of the Boards, nay, even to dissolve them whenever they find that those bodies are doing anything wrong. Besides, every Resolution that a Board carries has to be notified to the District Magistrate before it is acted upon. It is unnecessary, under this state of the case, to appoint Magistrates as Chairmen of the District Boards. At the time of passing the Local Self-Government Act, Government held out the promise that, after a trial of a year or two, it would allow District Board members to elect their own Chairmen. But the period of trial has been extended without limit, and now even the Local Boards are going to be deprived of the privilege. The Dacca Municipality, with an annual income and expenditure of about a lakh and a half of rupees is satisfactorily managed by the Commissioners and their elected Chairman, and cannot the Local Boards, under elected Chairmen, manage to spend assigned revenues of only two to three thousand rupees? Not to speak of the Local Boards, even the District Boards, constituted as they are with one-half elected and one-half nominated members, can be safely trusted to elect their own Chairmen, and the benefit of such a course would be great. The mischief of having official Chairmen at the head of District Boards has been clearly demonstrated by the carrying of the Resolution, referred to above, by the Dacca District Board. It is an every day experience that with an official Chairman at the head of the District Board, members feel themselves constrained to vote as he wishes them to vote, and do not even find themselves at liberty to express their opinions freely. Local Self-Government has been therefore reduced to a name, the Magistrate-Chairman doing everything as he likes. The Local Boards had some measure of independence, because they had the privilege of electing their own Chairmen, and beyond having the items and amounts of expenditure fixed by the Magistrate as Chairman of the District Board, were entirely free from official interference. But this freedom will be lost with the appointment of Subdivisional Officers as Chairmen, and few respectable people will then like to accept their membership. The inconvenience that will result from having Sub-divisional Officers as Chairmen of Local Boards, will be most keenly felt where the Subdivisional Officer will happen to be a European. For there are few Local Board members who understand English, and the business of those Boards is, therefore, as a rule, carried on in Bengali. Thus in many cases, the Chairman and the members will not understand each other, and the result will be a perfect disagreement between them.

32. The Government observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th April

Water scarcity.

has issued a circular calling upon the District Boards to spend at least five thousand rupees a year on the

improvement of water-supply, and also to advance loans to village people for digging tanks and wells. Five thousand rupees a year in a whole district will be an extremely inadequate allotment for such a purpose. But something is better

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 5th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1896.

than nothing. At least ten thousand rupees a year should be set apart by every District Board for the improvement of water-supply. Old silted-up tanks should be repaired and re-excavated so far as that is possible. In places where new tanks have to be dug, wells should be sunk if sufficient money to dig a tank is not procurable. The Lieutenant-Governor prefers tube-wells. Tube-wells by all means if they are serviceable! The thing is the District Boards should be up and doing. There is no time to be lost in procrastination.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1896.

33. The Lieutenant-Governor observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th April said in reply to Babu Surendra-nath Banerji, and Mr. Annada Mohun Bose's inter-

pellations on water scarcity in Bengal, that it was impossible for Government, or the District Boards, to supply seventy millions of men with water. The people themselves should not remain idle. The zamindar should re-excavate the large tanks in their zamindaris. The Lieutenant-Governor also spoke of religion in connection with the subject. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has rightly formed the conclusion that the sufferings of the people from scarcity of water are due to a decline in their religiousness. The zamindars, the talukdars, and all other well-to-do people should try their best to improve water-supply in the mufassal. No one ought to suffer from scarcity of water in Bihar where a well can be sunk at the trifling cost of seven or eight rupees. We join the Lieutenant-Governor in calling upon the rich and the well-to-do to come to the rescue of the suffering millions. The District Boards have been advised to spend as largely as possible on the improvement of water-supply. The Government, too, should spend at least five lakhs of rupees out of its surplus for the same purpose.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 6th, 1896.

34. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 6th April complains that the affairs of the Ranaghat Municipality are awfully mismanaged. The roads in that place, with the exception of a few thoroughfares, such as the Ferry Fund Road, the road to the court-houses, &c., are in a very bad condition. The interior of the town is a hot-bed of malaria, the huts of the milkmen being specially notorious for their dirtiness. Every milkman generally keeps thirty to fifty cattle in his hut in direct contravention of the Municipal regulation that no milkman shall keep more than ten cattle in his charge. Municipal regulations are honoured more in the breach than in the observance in Ranaghat, and there seems to be no one to enforce them.

HITAISHI,
April 7th, 1896.

35. Referring to the Water Circular of the Lieutenant-Governor, the *Hitaishi* of the 7th April observes that the Government ought to ascertain if the District Boards have sufficient funds at their disposal to enable them to spend largely on the improvement of water-supply, or to advance loans to village people for this purpose. A circular alone will not remove water scarcity. The Government should take more solid measures to save the lives of the suffering millions.

(g)—*Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*

CHARU MIHIR.
Mar. 31st, 1896.

36. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 31st March says that the Lauhajangha river in the Mymensingh district having dried up, nearly one hundred villages on its banks have been deprived of their supply of drinking water, and their old facilities for trade. The villagers have now to pay ruinously high prices for the necessaries of life which have to be conveyed all the way from the banks of the Jamuna river in carriages. The river may be set flowing again by clearing its mouth near Kapaisata.

HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1896.

37. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 3rd April says that Haldibari on the Northern Bengal Railway is an important seat of trade. Fifteen big merchants, native and European, live there. The merchants live on the west of the railway line, and the station is on the east of the line. The merchants and their men have frequent occasion to come to the station. They generally come across the line, for by so doing they can make a saving of 10 or 12 minutes in reaching the station. But it is dangerous to cross the line so often, especially as two trains pass each other here in the morning, and two

at night. This danger may be removed by the construction of a bridge over the line. Government gets eight or ten lakhs of rupees every year in the shape of freight from the merchants of Haldibari, and will it grudge a small expenditure to remove the inconvenience of nearly 30,000 people?

38. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 4th April writes that the construction of the section of the Midnapur Railway between the Damodar and the Rupnarayan is being pushed on. In the Khalar *jala* earth-work is going on. On both sides of the projected line

A complaint in connection with the construction of the Midnapur Railway.
the ground is being excavated, and the earth thrown on the adjoining lands without, however, any previous notice being given to their owners. This has not only prevented the owners of these lands from sowing them with *rabi* seeds, but has also obstructed many village roads and *ais*. The Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria has instructed the police to help the railway authorities in preventing people from obstructing the construction of the railway, and people, therefore, fear to make any protest. It is to be hoped that the Local Board will remove the obstructions on the village roads. The railway authorities, too, should pay the poor villagers their compensation as early as possible. Their lands having been occupied by the railway authorities, they could not this year cultivate them, and their want is great—so great that they cannot afford to have their compensation settled by the railway *amins*.

39. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th April says that on the 29th March last the down train on the Central Bengal line

A railway complaint. which touched at Maslandpur at 6-16 A.M., was ordered to be started before the passengers had time to enter it. A friend of the writer with his wife and a boy were entering a carriage when somebody gave the order for starting, and had it not been for the Station Master's counter-order not to start the train, the lady and the boy would have been very probably thrown down under the wheels. They found time to enter the train, but all their luggage was left behind on the platform. The train was so hastily started, probably because the guard and the driver were anxious to make up for lost time. The matter ought to be enquired into by the Traffic Superintendent, and orders should be issued by him, strictly prohibiting the starting of trains before the prescribed time.

SANJIVANI,
April 4th, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 4th, 1896.

40. The *Sonsodhini* of the 27th March says that in the month of Chaitra, the spawn of fish are deposited in the Halda river, and when they are hatched, they are sold throughout the district. Some mischievous fishermen have of late taken to the practice of artificially hatching the spawn in the heat of the sun and of selling them in the market. In this way these people are destroying the fish-supply of the district. The district authorities should take steps to prevent this destruction of fish.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 27th, 1896.

41. The *Sahachar* of the 1st April says that though the budget for the year which has just commenced is not faultless, and is liable to be upset by disturbing elements, it may be said to be, on the whole, a very satisfactory forecast of the income and expenditure of the Government of India for 1896-97. It inspires the hope that the time is at hand when an improvement in the financial condition of the Government is sure to take place. If nothing unusual or unexpected happens in the course of the year there will be a surplus of about two crores of rupees at its end. Government is to be thanked for refunding the famine insurance grant. It pledged itself to set apart one crore and a half every year as famine insurance; and the people, undoubtedly, have a right to demand that amount. Still the amount which Government has been able to refund in its present financial condition, ought to be gratefully accepted. It will be an act of kindness, however, on the part of the Government to reduce the taxes, by means of which the amount of the famine insurance grant is raised, in proportion to the reduction of the grant itself.

SAHACHAR,
April 1st, 1896.

The budget has been prepared with great care. Sir James Westland has estimated the revenues at a smaller amount than will be actually raised, and has rated the exchange at a lower figure than what it actually is. There will

thus be, according to him, a surplus of only 46 lakhs of rupees; but many people estimate that the surplus will approach a higher figure than one crore. The greater the surplus, the better for the people. And if the surplus actually comes up to something like a crore and a half, it is to be hoped that Government will relieve the people of a portion of the burden of taxation they now bear.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 1st, 1896.

The dredging of the Bhagirathi
in the Murshidabad district.

42. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st April says that though there is a special establishment of the Public Works Department in the Murshidabad district, whose sole work it is to see that the river Bhagirathi, which flows

through the district, always contains sufficient water, and the people do not suffer from water scarcity by its drying up, there is only four feet of water in the river this year, and people all over the district are crying for water. Why did not the officers responsible for maintaining a sufficient depth in the river take proper steps when the water was still eight or nine feet deep? In the year which has just closed, only thirty thousand rupees were spent in dredging the river, while in previous years forty to fifty thousand rupees were spent for the purpose. Indeed, the present state of things is largely due to neglect and laziness on the part of the Public Works officers. Government, too, is to be blamed for spending so small a proportion of the toll collections on dredging.

HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1896.

43. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd April cannot look upon the grant of Rs. 90,000 for the construction of a house for

A house for Military Assistant

Military Assistant Surgeons in the General Hospital
as a necessary expenditure. If any public work is

to be undertaken at this time, it should take the shape of a separate hospital for cholera and small-pox patients. During epidemics patients are now frequently denied admission on the ground of want of accommodation. Why has a house for Military Assistant Surgeons become indispensable all on a sudden?

SANJIVANI,
April 4th, 1896.

The restoration of the Famine
Insurance Grant.

44. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th April is glad that the Government proposes to restore the Famine Insurance Grant. Although the Government is going to reduce the yearly grant by fifty thousand rupees, it will entitle itself

to the gratitude of the people if it spends the whole of one crore of rupees a year in the support of famine-stricken people. The Finance Member observed that there could be no separate famine fund, and there could be no separate existence of it apart from the general exchequer. This leads the writer to suspect that even one crore of rupees may not be set apart every year for the purpose of famine relief.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 4th, 1896.

45. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th April complains to the postal authorities that many of its subscribers receive

A postal complaint.

their papers for two or three weeks together, and

sometimes do not receive the paper at all, though it is regularly posted to their address. It is a fact that heaps of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* are also found lying at the post-office, many of the copies among them having been returned by the peons, with the remark that the addressees refused to receive the papers, though, on enquiry of the addressees, it has been ascertained that delivery of the papers was never tendered to them. Does the irregularity occur because Hindu peons are unwilling to distribute a Musalman paper? It is hoped that the Presidency Postmaster and the Postmaster-General will enquire into the matter.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
April 3rd, 1896.

46. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd April says that Mr. Cotton has had to admit, on behalf of Government, that the correspondence

The interpellations regarding between Mr. Morshead and Mr. Maseyk, published
Mr. Morshead.

in this paper, is genuine. Mr. Cotton has also had to admit that "this was an indiscretion on Mr. Morshead's part, of which the Commissioner of the Division has taken due notice, and Mr. Morshead has been warned to be more careful in future." Mr. Cotton, however, added:—"The Lieutenant-Governor does not propose to take any further notice of the matter. The case is not a serious one, and it appears clear that no injustice was done."

The public, however, do not take the same view of the matter as the Lieutenant-Governor. Even many Anglo-Indians see that the Lieutenant-Governor's reply has no force, as is proved by the dexterous way in which the *Statesman* and the *Indian Daily News* have omitted His Honour's reply from their report of the proceedings of the Council. They would never have omitted the reply if they had seen any force in it. Nor would they have so easily let off Mr. Morshead if he had been a black native. In that case a question would have been raised whether the offer of a billet in Gangpur and of first class power did not amount to an offer of illegal gratification.

Government's reply to the interpellations on this subject is not satisfactory. It took advantage of the circumstance of two members having simultaneously made interpellations on the subject to give a reply of a general nature, omitting certain particulars. Whether intentionally or not, Government did not reply to Babu Surendranath's question whether Mr. Morshead was not the same officer, who was deprived of summary powers on account of some observations made by the High Court in regard to his judicial work while in charge of the Hajipur subdivision. If the Lieutenant-Governor had stated in his reply that Mr. Morshead was the same officer who had been thus deprived of summary powers, he would not have been able to say immediately after that what had been done in regard to him was enough. And if he had said this, people's respect for him would have grown less.

We have not yet learnt to bow to any and every decision that the Lieutenant-Governor may arrive at. Whatever respect we may feel for Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and however anxious we may be to please him, we cannot neglect or overlook the interests of the country. It is a matter of regret that it should be necessary for us to point out to the authorities that it is far more their duty to respect justice and to maintain purity in the administration of justice, than to defend Mr. Morshead. It is easy to see how rampant the officer must be made by encouragement on whom censure has had no effect. This is what we now fear in regard to Mr. Morshead.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

47. The *Dainik-o-Samschar Chandrika* of the 6th April has the following:—

The Political Agent of Sandur.

An old and veteran minister of Jeypur once remarked to a native gentleman of position that the native Chiefs of India of the present day were the most miserable specimens of humanity in existence. No native Chief had a fraction of the liberty enjoyed by the meanest of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress' Indian subjects. The native Chiefs were the slaves of the Political Agents. As a Hindu idol is in perpetual minority in the eye of the English law, so a native Indian Chief is in perpetual minority in the eye of the Political Agent. He must say what the Political Agent bids him say. If the Political Agent is disobeyed, you will see Jhalwar and Patna re-enacted. The native Chief who meekly submits to the rule of the Political Agent is a wise man; he alone is allowed to exist.

In a State, the Chief of which is a minor, the Political Agent is the lord of all he surveys. There his word is law, and woe unto him who ventures to cross his course or disobey his command. In other places the Political Agent's power may not be so absolute, but he is still not a man to be trifled with. No Chief can be safe if he incurs his displeasure. It does not take a long time to charge a native Chief with an attempt to poison the Political Agent.

Sometimes a Political Agent is found to make a mountain of a molehill; to raise a veritable tempest in a teapot. It is on such occasions that the low-mindedness of a Political Agent becomes most clear and manifest. Here is an instance in point. There is a Feudatory State, called Sandur, in the Madras Presidency, of which the Collector of Bellary is the Political Agent. The Chief is a Minor under the guardianship of his uncle and his Dewan, one Mr. Firth. The Dowager Rani wanted a clock, and had the one placed in the room of her

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1896.

son's uncle removed to her private apartment. This offended the Political Agent, and he at once wrote the Ranees the following uncourteous letter:—

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, RAMANDROOG,

25th April 1894.

DEAR MADAM,

I should not be doing my duty if I did not tell you that I received with much pain the news that you had thought fit to carry off from the State cutcherry the clock which your deceased husband had purchased for the use of the office. When he intended this clock for office use, I consider it extremely improper that any one should remove it and devote it to some other use, and as it is his own widow that has thus disobeyed and disregarded his words, the case becomes still more deplorable.

The clock must be replaced, and I must desire you at once to have it carried back and placed in the office room as before.

On receiving the news that this has been done I shall be happy to make a present of a clock for your own and your son's use, as you say that you have need of one.

I must warn you that I shall accept nothing short of replacement of the cutcherry clock at once, and, should you decline to do so, I shall have to take measures that I should greatly regret for your sake.

This is the letter which a Political Agent wrote to a Rani. It is doubtful whether a man could write such a letter even to a bond slave. A gentleman in England would not certainly write such an uncourteous letter to his servant-girl. But here is an Englishman writing an insulting letter to a lady of position. What a falling-off is here!

It is not very difficult to form an idea of the feelings which this insulting letter must have roused in the heart of the Rani. If she had not considered suicide a sin, and had not had the interests of her minor son to look after, she would have certainly followed the example of the Patna Chief. The Rani replied to the Political Agent's letter, and showed that the clock was not placed in the cutcherry room, that is to say, the belief which led the Political Agent to write her the insulting letter was an entirely unfounded belief. If the Political Agent had a particle of British chivalry and magnanimity left in him, he would have certainly apologised to the insulted Rani. But no. He did nothing of the sort. He did not feel ashamed in the least for his unmanly, un-English conduct. He wrote the Rani another letter, confessing his mistake, but not apologising for it.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, BELLARY,

5th May 1894.

MADAM,

With reference to correspondence relating to your having taken a clock from Raja Bala Sahib's office without previously obtaining his leave to do so, I have the honour to inform you that I have now learned from the Dewan that I was mistaken in supposing that you took it from the public cutcherry. My mistake was not due to any wilful misrepresentation on Raja Bala Sahib or the Dewan's part. They used the word "cutcherry," and it was I that misunderstood them to mean the public cutcherry.

But this does not alter the fact that you did take the clock, and indeed you have yourself admitted this in your letter. It was taken from a private cutcherry inside the palace.

It is now my duty to inform you that you have no right whatever to take any property belonging to the late Raja, your husband, without the consent of Raja Bala Sahib.

Your position—I think it best at once and forcibly to impress upon you—is that of a widow in an undivided Hindu family under the protection of your deceased husband's brother. You are entitled to maintenance, and your son is entitled to the same till he comes of age. This maintenance must be suitable to your position, and if Raja Bala Sahib fails to give you such comforts and luxuries as you require, your proper course is to inform the Political Agent, and not to proceed to take forcibly such articles as you think you would like to possess.

You seem to think that you are at liberty to claim and then to seize, if not given to you, any article which belonged to the late Raja, because he was your husband. You have no such right, and I must beg of you to bear this in mind. You can only claim such articles as were personally presented to you by him during his lifetime, and which appertain to your *stridhanam*.

I therefore beg of you to restore this clock in question to Raja Bala Sahib for his cutcherry use. It was placed there by the late Raja for his use in the same cutcherry, I understand, and as such, his wishes should be your law, even apart from the question of right or wrong. But, in the present case, there is no question in the matter. I cannot leave you to think that you are in the right at all, but distinctly proclaim you have acted wrongly.

We are pained to read this letter—pained not so much for the Rani, as for the Political Agent himself. The Rani is a widow. If she can suffer the miseries of widowhood without complaint, she can bear the tyranny of a Political Agent as well. If her husband had been alive he too would have been similarly treated. But it pains us to see an Englishman—Anglo-Indian he may be—insult a woman—a lady of rank and position—to see him ill-treat so cruelly a widow. And, it is Englishmen who pretend to teach us Hindus to worship women—to pay her the respect and regard she certainly deserves. Does "woman" then mean only "English woman"? The conduct of the Collector of Bellary has cast a stigma on the Madras Government. It has cast a stigma on British rule—on the rule of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, who is herself a woman and a widow, and who, with the kind-heartedness natural to her, will no doubt be pained and mortified to hear that the widowed Rani of Sandur has been so shabbily treated by one of her own servants. Will not the British nation too be pained by the Political Agent's conduct? The Anglo-Indian officials may not find any cause for complaint in this unmanly and unchivalrous conduct. The Governor-General and the Secretary of State may not take any notice of it. But will the British nation bear this tyranny, this ill-treatment, this insult to a woman? We think, not.

We have nothing to say to the Political Agent. Conquered people as we are, we pity the man who can write such an unmanly and uncourteous letter to a woman.

48. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 6th April says—

English chivalry and Native English chivalry knows nothing of the Indian Princesses. people. English chivalry was fast asleep when the Begum of Oudh was plundered by English soldiers under the command of Lord Hastings. It was English chivalry, again, which kept the Begum of Bhopal and her husband and her daughter apart from each other, and made the Maharani of Rewah live a wandering life far from her State and her only infant son, and go to Lord Dufferin at the Satna railway station with a fruitless appeal for redress. The world will also never forget English chivalry as lately manifested in certain official dealings with the Rani of Sundar and her minor son.

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VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

49. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st April writes as follows:—

India under the Muhammadans We must admit that the Musalman Conquerors and the English. did many inexcusable and irreparable wrongs to India, and consigned many of the world-renowned monuments of India's genius to oblivion. Still the Musalmans did not suck the people's blood like India's present rulers, and were never double-minded in their dealings with their subjects. During Muhammadan rule India's wealth never crossed its frontiers, and no deafening cries for food were heard every now and then. Race and religious animosity had not then become so acute as at present. During the Muhammadans' five hundred years, we had only one Aurungzebe, and one Seraj-ud-dowla. But under the civilised and enlightened British rule, a new Aurungzebe and a new Seraj-ud-dowla are starting up into life every day to make this land so coveted by the gods, unfit even for men's habitation.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 1st April sees great learning, wisdom and

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply sympathy with the governed in Sir Alexander to the Indian Association. Mackenzie's reply to the address of the Indian

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 6th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 1st, 1896.

SAHACHAR,
April 1st, 1896.

Association. His Honour's view of Self-Government, as expressed in the reply, should be approved, and though his utterances on the subject of a separation of the executive and judicial functions cannot challenge acceptance, there is no denying that political agitators in this country sometimes make too much fuss over the indiscretions and vagaries of judicial officers. These agitators forget that it is moderation like that which was observed throughout their public career by the late Haris Chandra Mukherji and Kristo Das Pal which succeeds best without offending the officials.

As for the coolly question, it is enough to hear from His Honour that it engages the attention of Government. The evil attendant on the present system of recruitment may be expected to be remedied in course of time.

51. The *Hitavadi* of the 23rd April has the following about the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the address of the Indian Association :—

The Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the Indian Association. Some parts of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, in reply to the address of the Indian Association, did not please us quite as much as his affable bearing and kind words. We cannot find words to express our satisfaction at the assurance given by His Honour that he would sincerely attend to public criticisms upon his measures. It is this assurance which emboldens us to criticise some of the views expressed in His Honour's speech.

His Honour expressed it as his opinion that Government should have control over the finances of municipalities. This shows that His Honour has not attended to the mischief that results from such control in petty matters.

His Honour's views about the separation of the executive and judicial functions are still more open to objection. He said that people had exaggerated notions about the extent of executive interference in judicial matters, and that such interference was almost confined among young and inexperienced officers. Such solitary cases of interference, could not, His Honour thought, justify a separation of the executive and judicial functions.

The public think differently. They find proofs of executive interference in judicial matters at every step. They see that the accuser is also the judge. It would be to show scant respect for truth to say that cases of such interference are few or rare in a country in which letters are written, addressed as: "My dear Konstam" and "My dear Morshead," and in which proceedings like those of Messrs. Phillips, Bell and Radice are possible. We feel it a higher and more important duty to have respect for truth than to have regard for the reputation of the officials. We fear that only a small number of such cases of interference come to light. The weak do not always venture to speak against the strong.

His Honour said that he would hail the day when tea-planters would prefer voluntary labour to contract labour. But that will be only when the lion will lie down with the kid, and every impossibility will become a possibility. If coolies must wait till that day for a redress of their grievances, His Honour will excuse us if we say that we cannot regard their deliverance as near.

After his speech His Honour talked on a variety of subjects. Everybody was charmed with His Honour's love of Bengali, his desire for the welfare of the Bengalis, and his interest in scientific education. It would really be a matter of rejoicing if every ruler could see like Sir Alexander Mackenzie how much the mutual attachment between the rulers and the ruled is strengthened by such meetings and interviews.

52. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th April writes as follows :—

Why Musalmans do not join the Congress.

Every Indian, who has the good of his country at heart, is convinced that political agitation in India is destined to be fruitless so long as it is not joined by Musalmans. It is now eleven years since the Congress was started, and it is needless to point out that, failing to secure Musalman co-operation, it has not attained to that position to which it would otherwise have attained. The object of the Congress will be fulfilled when it will be joined by the Musalmans. From that time the voice of the Congress will resound in England, and reverberate through the Houses of Parliament, making it impossible for their Members to go to sleep over Indian questions. That day will see the end of cases like the shooting of natives, and the bursting of native spleens. Oh ! how long will that day be in coming ?

HITAVADI,
April 23rd, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 4th, 1896.

But why do not the Musalmans join the Congress? Is it because there are not among them men competent to realize the beneficial character of the movement? Far from it. The real cause of the want of sympathy between Hindus and Musalmans, is the Musalman jealousy and high-handedness of the former, and the miserable condition of the latter. There is no end to the injustice and oppression which are committed by the Hindus upon the Musalmans in regard to employment in the public service. A few instances of the perpetuation of such injustice are, from time to time, published in this paper, but no such case is ever reported in papers like the *Hitavadi* and the *Sanjivani*.

The correspondent then refers to two cases of injustice done to two Muhammadan candidates for employment in the Pabna district, reported from the *Sanjivani* newspaper of the 4th April (see above paragraphs), and remarks as follows:—

No one, who is not an enemy of his country, ought to show such hatred to the Musalmans, simply because they are Musalmans. Musalmans should have their due share of public employment. To supersede them in favour of less qualified Hindu candidates is neither just nor reasonable.

53. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 5th April has the following:—

The growing breach between the rulers and the ruled. Of late there is observable a clear and unmistakable tendency towards misunderstanding between the rulers and the ruled in this country.

In the mind of the ruled there does not appear to be anything which can justify this estrangement of sympathy, but the rulers nevertheless seem to entertain a suspicion about their fidelity. This estrangement of the rulers' sympathy for the ruled may, in the course of time, foster and breed serious discontent in the mind of the latter, and it is the bounden duty of the former to prevent such discontent by removing its cause.

None but the godly are fit for the dignified position of a ruler. But godly men are rare in this world, where self-interest is the ruling principle. This is the reason why there is running an under-current of dissatisfaction and discontent in the land just at this moment. Far-sighted statesmen alone can say where this will end. A weak and conquered people as we are, our judgment is most likely to be at fault. It is natural that the future should appear to us shrouded in mystery and darkness.

There is, however, no mistaking the estrangement of sympathy—a desire to be aloof in everything that the Government does. Powerful as it is, Government hesitates and never ventures to deal with the subject-people frankly, and to take them into its confidence. There is even no concealing this estrangement of feeling. It finds vent both in word and action whenever the rulers and the ruled have to deal with each other. The white man does not feel disposed to speak or sit with the black man. The black man's society is unwelcome to him. Who can say when this state of things will come to an end? Will it ever come to an end? No body can tell. This, however, is certain that if the wound is not soon healed, if the gulf between the ruler and the ruled is not soon bridged over, it will go hard with them both. But prestige-ridden as they are, the rulers are going astray. They are blind to the sad consequences of their misguided policy. They are blind to the fault which has marred all their virtues.

ASSAM PAPERS.

54. The *Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi* for the second fortnight of Falgun

Native jail-visitors in Assam does not understand why the Government is so reluctant to appoint, as in Bengal, native gentlemen as visitors of Assam jails. Are there not men in Assam fit for the enjoyment of this privilege? In Sylhet, at least, which enjoys the privilege of Local Self-Government, the Government ought to appoint native gentlemen as visitors of jails.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI,
Second fortnight
of Falgun 1302 B.

55. The same paper observes that a Bench of Honorary Magistrates is going to be formed in Sylhet. Mr. O'Brien, the Honorary Magistrates in Sylhet. Deputy Commissioner is, however, unwilling to appoint pleaders as Honorary Magistrates. This strikes the writer as strange. In Bengal, pleaders are generally appointed Honorary Magistrates. Why the

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI

same thing cannot be done in Assam is more than one can understand. The Assam pleaders do not compare unfavourably with their Bengal brethren, and they are sure to make the best possible Honorary Magistrates. They have, however, very little time to spare, and they may not like to be appointed Honorary Magistrates.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVAH,
Second fortnight of
Falgun. 1302 B.S.

56. The same paper observes that the Sylhet Municipality has too long enjoyed a yearly income of about Rs. 8,700 from the local ferry ghât. But there having been this year a combination among the men who generally take a lease of the ferry, it had to be leased out at Rs. 7,000 only. The Municipality thus becomes a loser by about Rs. 2,000. The Deputy Commissioner ought to inquire whether the report about a combination is true. The Municipality itself should henceforth work the ferry instead of leasing it out.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th April 1896.